

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

General Paul Nakasone
Director
National Security Agency
Fort Meade, M.D. 20755

The Honorable Gina Haspel
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Directors Haspel, Nakasone, and Wray:

Joseph Mifsud is a London-based academic who has a long affiliation with Rome's Link Campus University. The school, as described below, appears to have many connections to Western governments, although Mifsud himself has been portrayed as having close connections with the Putin regime in Russia.

On Thursday, April 18, 2019, the Department of Justice publicly released Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election. The report includes numerous details on Mifsud, who told George Papadopoulos that the Russian government had dirt on Hillary Clinton comprising thousands of emails. Papadopoulos later related this information to others, which served as the official pretext for the FBI to open a counter-intelligence investigation into whether Trump associates conspired with Russians to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. After investigating the matter for approximately two years, the Special Counsel "did not establish" that such a conspiracy existed.¹

The Special Counsel's report portrays Mifsud as having deep ties to Russia, detailing his trips to Moscow and extensive contacts with Russian officials including "a one-time employee of the IRA," the Russian organization that conducted social media attacks on the 2016 U.S. elections.² The description is consistent with the portrayal of Mifsud by House Intelligence Committee Democrats, who pronounced him to be a "cutout" used by the Russians to feed information to Papadopoulos.³

¹ Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election, Vol. 1, p. 2

² Ibid., p. 81.

³ "Minority Views to the 'Report on Russian Active Measures,'" p. 19.

The Special Counsel's report explains that Papadopoulos met Mifsud at Link Campus University, which the report describes simply as "a for-profit institution headed by a former Italian government official."⁴ It cites that description to an article in the *Guardian* but omits this additional information found in the *Guardian* article:

One Rome-based professor claimed Link Campus had a reputation for being closely connected to some elements within the Italian intelligence services.

"Mifsud is a person who collaborates with us," said one person who was reached at Link Campus.⁵

The Special Counsel report further omits any mention of a wide range of contacts Mifsud had with Western political institutions and individuals. According to open source reports and other publicly available information, in addition to his role at Link Campus University, Mifsud has served as:

- An official at Malta's Ministry of Foreign Affairs;⁶
- A member of the team that negotiated Malta's entry into the European Union;⁷
- President of Slovenia's Euro-Mediterranean University;⁸
- Director of the London Academy of Diplomacy, which trains students from all over the world in diplomacy;⁹
- A trainer of Albanian diplomats in their efforts to gain European Union membership;¹⁰
- The moderator of a panel at the 16th Doha Forum in Qatar featuring former Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Borge Brende, former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, former Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Morantinos, former French Justice Minister Rachida Dati, and others;¹¹

⁴ "Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election," Vol. I, p. 83. In footnote 412, the Mueller report acknowledges that Link Campus is headed by a former Italian interior minister.

⁵ "Joseph Mifsud: More questions than answers about mystery professor linked to Russia," *The Guardian*, Oct. 31, 2017.

⁶ "Maltese Official Raises Profile of U.K. Diplomacy Academy," *The Washington Diplomat*, December 18, 2014, https://washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11246:maltese-official-raises-profile-of-uk-diplomacy-academy&catid=1526:janeuary-2015&Itemid=551

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ "President Frattini attending the 16th Doha Forum in Qatar,"

<https://qatarconferences.org/dohaforum2016/news/news-13.html>

- An affiliate of the London Centre of International Law Practice, “which billed itself as a ‘unique institution . . . comprising high-level professional international law practitioners, dedicated to the advancement of global legal knowledge and the practice of international law;’”¹² and
- A speaker at the 2017 National Meeting of Global Ties U.S., a non-profit organization that partners with the U.S. State Department.¹³ Held at the U.S. Capitol, the event featured additional speakers such as French Ambassador to the U.S. Gerard Araud, EU Ambassador to the U.S. David O’Sullivan, and U.S. Congressmen Jim Himes and John Yarmuth. (It should be noted that this State Department-affiliated group apparently had no problem contacting Mifsud and arranging his participation in the conference in February 2017, yet the FBI either did not or could not arrange to interview such an ostensibly crucial witness until six months after it officially opened its investigation in July 2016.)

Moreover, photographic evidence shows Mifsud has been in close proximity to influential Western political and government officials and organizations, and that such officials and organizations participate in Link Campus University events.



Mifsud with Boris Johnson, former British Foreign Secretary, October 2017

¹² Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election, Vol. 1, p. 81.

¹³ Unity in Community, <https://www.globaltiesus.org/storage/unity-2017-program-print%20file%20reduced.pdf>



Professor Enzo Scotti, President, Link University and former Minister of State, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs , Professor Nabil Ayad, Professor Joseph Mifsud, Professor Claire Smith with the Italian Generals who attended a training programme on International Security which was organised by Link Campus University and London Academy of Diplomacy. Rome, October 2012

Mifsud with members of the Italian military and Claire Smith, former member of the U.K.'s Joint Intelligence Committee, October 2012.



Mifsud sits next to former European ministers while moderating a panel in Doha, May 2016.

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Link Campus University
9 September 2016

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Il crimine organizzato è potente e muove milioni di euro. Soltanto una cosa è forte

Facebook post by Link Campus University showing a seminar at the university led by an FBI official, September 2016

18
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CYBERINVESTIGATION – SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE

CYBERINVESTIGATION – SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE



Nell'ambito delle attività del Master in Analisi Comportamentale e Scienze Applicate all'Intelligence e Homeland Security che nella sua terza edizione è stato denominato Master in Scientific Intelligence, il 13 Gennaio alla Link Campus University si terrà l'intervento tecnico dell'esperto di Cybersecurity del Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI

www.fbi.gov

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber>

"Combating the threat. In recent years, we've built a whole new set of technological and investigative capabilities and partnerships—so we're as comfortable chasing outlaws in cyberspace as we are down back alleys and across continents. That includes:

- A Cyber Division at FBI Headquarters "to address cyber crime in a coordinated and cohesive manner";
- Specially trained cyber squads at FBI headquarters and in each of our 56 field offices, staffed with "agents and analysts who protect against investigate computer intrusions; theft of intellectual property and personal information, child pornography and exploitation, and online fraud";
- New Cyber Action Teams that "travel around the world on a moment's notice to assist in computer intrusion cases" and that "gather vital intelligence that helps us identify the cyber crimes that are most dangerous to our national security and to our economy";
- Our 93 Computer Crimes Task Forces nationwide that "combine state-of-the-art technology and the resources of our federal, state, and local counterparts";
- A growing partnership with other federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and others—which share similar concerns and resolve in combating cyber crime."

Announcement of a seminar at Link Campus University hosted by FBI officials, April 2017

If Mifsud has extensive, suspicious contacts among Russian officials as portrayed in the Special Counsel's report, then an incredibly wide range of Western institutions and individuals may have been compromised by him, including our own State Department. Indeed, both the United States and many of our allies would be obligated to run damage assessments to determine what sensitive information Mifsud may have conveyed to the Russians and what Russian disinformation he may have spread. In fact, this could entail a major scandal for U.S. and allied governments.

Alternatively, if Mifsud is not in fact a counterintelligence threat, then that would cast doubt on the Special Counsel's fundamental depiction of him and his activities, and raise questions about the veracity of the Special Counsel's statements and affirmations. It should be noted that the Special Counsel declined to charge Mifsud with any crime even though, to justify seeking a prison sentence for Papadopoulos, the Special Counsel claimed Papadopoulos' untruthful testimony "undermined investigators' ability to challenge the Professor [Mifsud] or potentially detain or arrest him while he was still in the United States."¹⁴ Furthermore, it's still a mystery how the FBI knew to ask Papadopoulos specifically about Hillary Clinton's emails, on multiple occasions throughout 2016-17 before having interviewed Mifsud, if the FBI hadn't already somehow received this information directly or indirectly from Mifsud himself.

In order to better understand these matters, I respectfully request that you provide me with copies of all the information in your departments' and agencies' possession related to Joseph Mifsud, including emails, all relevant reports, and records of his contact with any elements of the U.S. government. I also request written answers to the enclosed classified list of questions pertaining to these matters. Please provide these responses no later than Friday, May 10, 2019. Please contact Committee Republican staff at (202) 225-4121 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Devin Nunes
Ranking Member

¹⁴ Government's Sentencing Memorandum on George Papadopoulos,
<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4776071/a106dd6d-64e2-43c0-9da1-a90a48ed8daa.pdf>